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ABSTRACT

This document describes the PHysical ACTivity Information Retrieval Committee (PHACT) and provides a detailed chronology of its accomplishments from 1969 to 1975. In an introduction, it is explained that the system prepares and disseminates abstracts, bibliographies, indexes, reprints, and interpretive summaries of research for the use of professionals working in areas relating to physical movement. The document concludes with a list of PHACT accomplishments and with a directory of members, affiliates, and consultants. (CD)

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A CHRONOLOGY OF PHACT

(The PHysical ACTivity Information Retrieval Committee)

1969 to 1975

Presented to the International Association for Sports Information and the International Anniversary Congress, "Information of Sports Today - Tomorrow," in Graz, Austria (April 15-19, 1975)

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A CHRONOLOGY OF PHACT

Michael A. Sherman

INTRODUCTION

The PHysical ACTivity Information Retrieval Committee (PHACT) is an American organization dedicated to the improvement of information resources, systems and services for physical activity disciplines and professions. At present, PHACT members represent four universities, Michigan, Michigan State, Pittsburgh and Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. Since its inception as a group of "interested" professionals in 1969, PHACT has sought cooperation and support from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (AAHPER), American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), University Microfilms Division of the Xerox Corporation (UM), The President's Council for Physical Fitness and Sports, and Knowledge Availability Systems Center (KASC) at the University of Pittsburgh. PHACT has recently established working relationships with the Canadian Association for Sports Information (CASI) and other agencies of the Canadian Government and with the United Kingdom's National Documentation Centre for Sport, Physical Education and Recreation.

PHACT's primary interest, throughout the years, has been the development of an automated system to facilitate retrieval of scientific documents. The system envisioned by PHACT would permit preparation and dissemination of abstracts, bibliographies, indexes, reprints and interpretive summaries of research. The vocabulary of the system would be controlled by a thesaurus of physical activity terms. PHACT products and services would be made available, on both national and international levels, to a wide variety of users (e.g. coaches, teachers, scientists, physicians, trainers, students, therapists, etc.) who require scientific information.

In spite of many obstacles, primarily lack of funds, PHACT persists in its attempts to mobilize American resources for a national documentation and retrieval program. PHACT is currently seeking formal participation in the International Association of Sports Information (IASI). Such involvement will hopefully enable PHACT to achieve its own objectives and, at the same, promote greater sharing of physical activity information throughout the world.

CHRONOLOGY

This document presents a chronological review of PHACT's accomplishments from 1969 to 1975. PHACT has conducted over 20 meetings in nine different cities and prepared several proposals, reports and technical papers. All PHACT documents are available from Dr. Leonard Larson, University of Wisconsin or Dr. Michael Sherman, University of Pittsburgh. Following the chronology, a directory of PHACT members and affiliates is presented.

PRE-PHACT, 1963-1967

Dr. Gerald Kenyon, while at the University of Wisconsin, begins to acquire scientific literature on the sociology of sport and leisure. Kenyon's collection provides initial input for the retrieval system, SIRLS, now based in Canada at the University of Waterloo.

In 1967, Seefeldt attends the Annual AAHPER Convention in Las Vegas and presents a paper about the Basic Indexing and and Retrieval System (BIRS). Developed by Dr. J.F. Vinsonaler, Michigan State University, the system is being used to support a physical education curriculum project in the Battle Creek Public Schools.

1969

On February 7, Herrmann, Larson, Seefeldt and VanHuss participate

in a Pittsburgh Symposium on Curriculum Design for Physical Education. VanHuss presents a paper titled "The Role of Information Retrieval in Curriculum Development" based on the Michigan State-Battle Creek project. Along with Goldberger, Noble and Sherman, the group meets with Kent for the first time to discuss feasibility and funding of a physical activity information retrieval system.

While attending the Annual Convention of AAHPER in Boston on April 12, PHACT meets to discuss the objectives, subject coverage, users, funding and organization of a retrieval system. Goldberger and Sherman submit a paper to the group which presents a model for a physical activity information network. The feasibility, performance requirements and developmental stages of a system are discussed. Several national leaders are identified to participate in system development.

In April, Noble, Sherman and VanHuss participate in a symposium at the University of Illinois in honor of Dr. Thomas K. Cureton, Jr. Noble reports on the use of the computer in generating problems for research. Sherman presents a paper, "Development of a Mechanized System for Retrieving Physical Activity Information," which outlines the operations of a system planned at the University of Pittsburgh. VanHuss speaks about the need for improved systems and services to control the "knowledge explosion" in the exercise and sport sciences.

PHACT meets in May during the Annual Meeting of ACSM in Atlanta. Issues raised in Boston are reviewed. Larson agrees to serve as Chairman of PHACT. Meetings at Michigan State University and in Washington, D.C. are planned. Several funding sources are identified.

On May 14, PHACT Obtains a copy of a report submitted to the AAHPER Research Council. The report discusses the practicality and economic feasibility of a program to prepare and disseminate scientific information about health and fitness. In essence, the report suggests that the Research Council serve as an "answering service" for scientific and professional personnel.

On July 17 and 18, PHACT members Hawkins, Seefeldt, Sherman and VanHuss meet at AAHPER Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Also present are, Dr. John Cooper, Dr. George Anderson and Mr. Carl Troester of AAHPER and Mr. Simon McNeeley of the President's Council for Physical Fitness and Sports. The major agenda items include system design criteria, system development tasks, identification of a project task force and delegation of responsibilities. The long-range of objective of PHACT is agreed to be the development, operation and evaluation of a system that would provide physical activity research information to users in medicine, science, education and other human service professions. Such information would include abstracts, bibliographies, indexes, reprints and interpretive summaries of research. It was also agreed that a project director, staff and suitable location were essential. Several assignments were made. VanHuss would prepare an overview paper about the need for and functions of a system. Seefeldt would contact the National Library of Medicine to explore funding possibilities. Sherman would identify other funding agencies, especially the National Science Foundation, and seek additional guidance from Kent. Seefeldt would contact Larson to determine whether the University of Wisconsin could provide funds for a project director and staff. Hawkins agreed to investigate funding from the Research Utilization Division of the Office of Education. McNeeley would make contact with the National

Aeronautic and Space Administration to determine whether they would support a physical activity system.

A grant from the School of Education, University of Pittsburgh permits initiation of a Physical Activity Research Information Center in September. The Center, staffed by Goldberger, Sherman and a part-time scretary, identifies information sources, collects terminology for a thesaurus and writes proposals for system development. It also compiles extensive lists of reference publications, scientific and professional associations, specialized libraries, information centers and automated retrieval systems.

1970

In January, Larson submits a PHACT proposal to the National Institutes for Health to support a "Conference for the Study of Information Retrieval in the Health Sciences." The intent of the Conference is to stimulate interaction between information and physical activity specialists and to explore possible solutions to information retrieval problems. NIH rejects the proposal.

On July 15, representatives of AAHPER and the University Microfilms (UM) Division, Xerox Corporation, meet to exchange ideas about an information system for the areas of health, physical education, sports, adapted and therapeutic exercise, physiology of exercise, leisure, camping and outdoor education. Subsequent to this meeting, Larson establishes formal contact with UM which agrees to become formally involved with PHACT. UM participates in most of the PHACT meetings between 1971 and 1974.

1971

In March, Hawkins, Herrmann, Larson, Reiff, Seefeldt, VanHuss and

a UM representative, Mr. Fred Asmussen, meet in Detroit. An outline of the conceptual structure of physical activity information is prepared.

On May 9, Larson discusses the status and progress of PHACT at a Toronto meeting of the ACSM Board of Trustees.

PHACT meets in Chicago on May 21 to discuss the conceptual structure of physical activity knowledge and determine funding possibilities from UM. Seefeldt submits a report on "Data Banks in the Health Sciences."

On July 9, PHACT meets in Chicago to discuss the content, organization and funding of a system. VanHuss, who has just returned from meetings of the international retrieval progrsms and experts. Herrmann presents a list of source journals and a list of 123 key scientific and professional organizations. A PHACT Synthesis Committee is appointed, consisting of Herrmann, Seefeldt and VanHuss, and charged with the responsibility of preparing a conceptual outline of physical activity information. Key people for future membership in PHACT are identified. Plans are established for a meeting to create a formal PHACT organization.

At Michigan State University on July 29, the Synthesis Committee meets. Discussion centers on defining the user population, identifying source journals, establishing criteria for quality control and determining the products and services desired by potential clientele. Services and products of existing systems are discussed as are procedures for insuring PHACT's compatibility with such systems.

On August 9, PHACT meets in Washington, D.C. Various schemes of organizing and classifying information are discussed. The Synthesis Committee reports on content classification and performance requirements of an effective retrieval system. Seefeldt reports on efforts to obtain

funds for an information retrieval conference. Hawkins reveals AAHPER intentions to seek funds from Bureau of Research for the Handicapped. A formal organizational structure for PHACT is discussed. Seven content areas are identified. These are: recreation, education, athletics and sports, health and safety, sports medicine, dance and facilities design. Assignments are made to identify key concepts and terminology in the seven areas.

Michigan State University hosts a meeting of the Synthesis Committee on the 4th, 5th and 6th of November. Ten areas are specified from which terms for a thesaurus will be collected. These areas are: (1) physiology of exercise; (2) growth, development and aging; (3) biomechanics; (4) adaptive, corrective and rehabilitative activity; (5) sport psychology; (6) sport sociology; (7) nutrition; (8) recreation and leisure; (9) protection, safety and ecology; and (10) education. Pertinent terms will initially be taken from Index Medicus and Encyclopedia of Sport Sciences and Medicine. The Committee constructs a flow chart of tasks required for thesaurus development.

Larson reports on PHACT at the Big Ten Physical Education Conference in December at the University of Pittsburgh

Dr. H. Harrison Clarke, Consultant to the President's Council for Physical Fitness and Sports, contacts Larson in December. He informs Larson of the Council's desire to provide a bibliographic research service and seeks involvement with PHACT.

1972

Asmussen, Larson, Sherman and VanHuss hold a March meeting in Chicago to develop a proposal for UM. The conceptual outline prepared by the Synthesis Committee is refined.

On April 13, a PHACT meeting is held at UM in Ann Arbor to review a proposal for a Physical Activity Clearinghouse. The proposed Clearinghouse would develop and review curriculum materials, provide multi-media copying services, disseminate annual and retrospective indexes and publish a bi-monthly newsletter.

On June 12, Herrmann submits a report to PHACT about primary sources of physical activity information based on analysis of citations in the Encyclopedia of Sport Sciences and Medicine. The report indicates that 42 percent of the 3,435 citations come from 14 journals, with the top five being: Research Quarterly, Journal of Applied Physiology, Journal of the American Medical Association, Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness ~~and Physical Fitness~~ and American Journal of Physiology.

In July, Hawkins informs PHACT that AAHPER Has received a grant of about $300,000 from Bureau of Education for the Handicapped. This grant permits establishment of the Information Research and Utilization Center under the direction of Julian Stein. Hawkins also indicates that AAHPER has opened negotiations with ERIC.

During the summer of 1972, Larson delivers a paper about the status of the physical activity information retrieval efforts in the United States. Larson's paper is sent to Sigfried Lachenicht, President of the IBDI Commission of Data Documentation. Previously, the Commission had notified PHACT of its interest in learning more about computerized data processing in the United States.

On September 25, PHACT receives a copy of a memo from Mr. Joel Burden, Director of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Teacher Education to Mr. George Anderson of AAHPER. The memo indicates that the ERIC Cleringhouse will start to include AAHPER documents in its two index publications, Research

in Education and Current Index to Journals in Education. Burden also announces ERIC's intention to provide document reproduction services, collaborate on dissemination of AAHPER publications and work cooperatively with Julian Stein, Director of the IRUC. Except for the Research Quarterly, publications in exercise and sport science are excluded from the ERIC/AAHPER system. Other journals to be included are: School Health Review, Annual Safety Review, Quest and Journal of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Burden indicates that recreation information will be processed by the ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools.

PHACT, joined by Mr. Elliot Stern of UM and Mr. Carl Troester of AAHPER, meets in Chicago on September 25 to discuss thesaurus development, formation of a PHACT "corporation," relationships with other systems, budget matters and goals for the coming year.

Key representatives from AAHPER, ERIC, PHACT AND KASC (Knowledge Availability Systems Center) meet at the University of Pittsburgh on November 13. Discussion concerns the present and future status of PHACT and prospects for cooperation among the four groups. Mrs. Eleanor Dym of KASC presents a plan for development of a physical activity thesaurus. The plan specifies the strategies, procedures, budget, personnel and schedule for thesaurus construction. Dym presents a "roadmap" for analysis of terms and their interrelationships. Human and technological resources to support thesaurus development in Pittsburgh are discussed by Dym and Kent. The Synthesis Committee is expanded to include Dym and Sherman and becomes the Thesaurus Committee.

1973

In January, Larson reports of communication between PHACT and Dr. William A.R. Orban, University of Ottawa. Orban informs Larson of efforts

to raise funds from the Canadian National Library and the Federal Administration for Sports and Recreation. Larson distributes the first draft of the PHACT constitution and by-laws. The constitution specifies that PHACT's objectives include: (1) development of a thesaurus; (2) analysis, abstracting and storage of documents; (3) preparation and distribution of an index; (4) identification and reproduction of special reports; and (5) preparation and dissemination of interpretive summaries of research.

On February 26, Larson receives a letter from Dr. Raymond A. Weiss, editor of AAHPER's "Completed Research" publication. The letter invites Larson to discuss the role of mechanized information retrieval in future publication of "Completed Research."

On March 1, PHACT Learns that AAHPER has officially merged with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Teacher Education. Larson discusses the PHACT proposal with UM representatives at Ann Arbor. Three weeks later, On March 23, PHACT and UM meet in Chicago and agree that thesaurus development is an essential prerequisite for a functional retrieval system. UM agrees to provide funds for two graduate assistants to work on the thesaurus project. Plans are made for a subsequent meeting in Pittsburgh.

The PHACT Thesaurus Committee meets in Pittsburgh on March 23. The first draft of the thesaurus proposal is reviewed. The required tasks, budget, personnel and work schedule are approved. Dym and Sherman agree to prepare a final proposal for submission to UM.

Final review of the PHACT Thesaurus proposal takes place in Pittsburgh on April 27, 28 and 29.

In May, VanHuss participates in the IASI Congress in Magglingen, Switzerland, and is subsequently appointed to the Thesaurus Commission.

Early in July, Dym and Sherman submit the PHACT Thesaurus proposal to UM. On July 5, Dym, Larson, Sherman and VanHuss meet in Detroit to discuss the proposal with Mr. James Sterling of UM. UM informs PHACT that no funds are available. PHACT considers feasibility of involvement with British and Canadian groups.

PHACT meets in Chicago on October 5. Alternative strategies for funding the thesaurus project are considered. Larson agrees to approach ACSM for assistance. Meetings with the United Kingdom and Canada are proposed. Revision of the PHACT constitution is discussed.

In December, PHACT meets with four representatives of UM at Ann Arbor to consider the PHACT Clearinghouse. Changes in UM personnel and priorities dictate revision of the initial proposal. UM agrees to prepare another proposal for approval of PHACT.

1974

As of January, Larson continues to negotiate with UM for an information retrieval program. He has also made contact with Mr. Gilles Chiasson, Manager of the Sports Information Resource Center (SIRC) in Canada. Additional contact is established with the Coaching Association of Canada.

In April, Sherman submits a paper, "Information Retrieval in Sport and Physical Activity," for publication in the 1975 issue of Exercise and Sport Sciences Reviews.

On June 6 and 7, PHACT meets with Canadian representatives at the University of Ottawa. Canadian participants are: Mr. Gilles Chiasson of SIRC; Dr. Geoff Gowan of the Coaching Association of Canada; Dr. Joseph Kurtzman of the Administration for Sport and Recreation; and Dr. William Orban of the University of Ottawa. Herrmann, Larson, Reiff, Sherman and Van-

Huss represent PHACT. Mr. Lawrence Wangberg of UM is also present. Information retrieval programs in Canada, the United States and several other countries are reviewed. Chiasson discusses the activities of the International Association for Sports Information (IASI, formerly IBDI), with special reference to the work of the Multi--lingual Sport Science Thesaurus Commission. Formation of an international information association comprised of English-speaking nations is proposed and discussed. A draft constitution is reviewed. Establishment of American and Canadian affiliates of IASI are strongly recommended. Two committees are created to work on development of a constitution and thesaurus. Canadian and U.S. delegates are identified as participants in a Pittsburgh meeting scheduled for November. It is agreed that Mr. Gordon Alan Bell of the United Kingdom should be invited to the Pittsburgh meeting.

On October 4, several Canadians meet in Ottawa to form the Canadian Association for Sport Information. With Hermiston as President and Chiasson as Executive Director, CASI will strive to develop information programs that conform with internationally approved standards.

Meetings are held at the University of Pittsburgh on November 12, 13 and 14. Delegates include: Dym, Sherman and VanHuss of the United States; Chiasson, Hermiston, Leesment and Orban of Canada; and Bell of the United Kingdom. While an association of English-speaking nations is still desired, plans for its creation are temporarily delayed until strong national groups can be formed. Most of the discussion focuses on thesaurus development and funding possibilities. Dym presents a revised thesaurus proposal which requires almost $100,000.

A thesaurus advisory committee is suggested with two representatives from the U.S., U.K. and Canada, respectively. Cooperative efforts with IASI are considered extremely important. Other projects, such as abstracting and indexing services, are proposed. In addition to Bell and Chiasson, it is agreed that Sherman should attend 1975 meetings of IASI and the Thesaurus Commission. VanHuss will contact Dr. Friederich Tscherne and Dr. Josef Recla to request Sherman's involvement with IASI. Delegates visit communication and computer resources on campus and meet with Kent and other personnel from KASC.

1975

In February, Sherman is contacted by Mrs. Vivian Kinderman, representing the French Language Bureau of Quebec and the Olympic Organizing Committee, to request his assistance in creating a lexicon of sport terminology for the 1976 Olympics.

While on sabbatical leave from Pittsburgh during the winter of 1975, Sherman and Mr. Miguel Rivera initiate several projects. These include: (1) identification of U.S. and foreign information resources, systems and services for the exercise and sport sciences; (2) development of a directory of physical activity organizations in the U.S. and Canada; (3) preparation of a major research proposal for an automated retrieval system; and (4) development of a proposal for an information retrieval symposium. The latter will represent an attempt to organize the resources of over 200 groups into an American Association for Sports Information, which will become a member of IASI. Because of his up-coming retirement from Wisconsin, Larson resigns as Chairman of PHACT. Sherman agrees to assume Larson's role.

Sherman receives funds from the School of Education and Center for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh to attend the IASI Congress in Graz and Visit information centers in Birmingham, Cologne, Vienna, Graz and the Haag.

SUMMARY OF PHACT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As previously mentioned, PHACT is an American organization seeking improved information services for physical activity disciplines and professions. Since 1969, PHACT members and affiliates have vigorously pursued that objective, usually working beyond the professional demands of their respective institutions. Listed below are the major accomplishments of PHACT.

1. Identification of potential information users of physical activity information;
2. Development of a conceptual outline of physical activity knowledge;
3. Identification of journals and reference publications which contain physical activity information;
4. Identification of information resource units, especially professional and scientific organization, specialized libraries, information centers and automated retrieval systems;
5. Development of a proposal for construction of a physical activity thesaurus in accordance with international guidelines and procedures;
6. Acquisition of substantial terminology for the thesaurus and, subsequently, and index;
7. Establishment of standards to insure quality of information for a retrieval system;
8. Specification of products and services required by physical activity scientists and professionals;
9. Identification of information processing operations required for an automated retrieval system;
10. Identification of tasks, personnel and funds required for system development;
11. Identification of individuals and organizations necessary to support a national retrieval program;
12. Preparation of the PHACT constitution and by-laws;
13. Initiation of procedures required to give PHACT status as a non-profit corporation;
14. Collection of descriptive data about documentation and information programs in about 30 countries;

15. Identification of potential funding agencies in the U.S., U.K., and Canada; and

16. Establishment of cooperative relationships with U.K., Canada and other members of IASI.

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